



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Committee Bill No. 5178

LCO No. 2727

Referred to Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Introduced by:
(LAB)

**AN ACT EXTENDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO
REMARIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF POLICE OFFICERS AND
FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (a) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and
5 of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group
6 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for
7 (1) state employees, (2) members of the General Assembly who elect
8 coverage under such plan or plans, (3) participants in an alternate
9 retirement program who meet the service requirements of section
10 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, (4) anyone receiving benefits
11 under section 5-144 or from any state-sponsored retirement system,
12 except the teachers' retirement system and the municipal employees
13 retirement system, (5) judges of probate and Probate Court employees,
14 (6) the surviving spouse, until remarriage, and any dependent children
15 until they reach the age of eighteen, of [a member of an organized local

16 police department or] a constable who performs criminal law
17 enforcement duties who dies as the result of injuries received while
18 acting within the scope of such officer's or constable's employment and
19 not as the result of illness or natural causes, (7) employees of the
20 Capital City Economic Development Authority established by section
21 32-601, [and] (8) the surviving spouse and dependent children of any
22 employee of a municipality who dies on or after October 1, 2000, as the
23 result of injuries received while acting within the scope of such
24 employee's employment and not as the result of illness or natural
25 causes, and whose surviving spouse and dependent children are not
26 otherwise eligible for a group hospitalization and medical and surgical
27 insurance plan, and (9) the surviving spouse until such spouse dies
28 and any dependent children until they reach the age of eighteen, of
29 any police officer or paid firefighter who dies on or after October 1,
30 2003, as the result of injuries received while acting within the scope of
31 the officer's or firefighter's employment and not as the result of illness
32 or natural causes. For purposes of this subdivision, "employee" means
33 any regular employee or elective officer receiving pay from a
34 municipality, [and] "municipality" means any town, city, borough,
35 school district, taxing district, fire district, district department of
36 health, probate district, housing authority, regional work force
37 development board established under section 31-3k, flood commission
38 or authority established by special act or regional planning agency,
39 and "police officer" means a sworn member of an organized local
40 police department or a state police officer. The minimum benefits to be
41 provided by such plan or plans shall be substantially equal in value to
42 the benefits [which] that each such employee or member of the General
43 Assembly could secure in such plan or plans on an individual basis on
44 the preceding first day of July. The state shall pay for each such
45 employee and each member of the General Assembly covered by such
46 plan or plans the portion of the premium charged for such member's
47 or employee's individual coverage and seventy per cent of the
48 additional cost of the form of coverage and such amount shall be
49 credited to the total premiums owed by such employee or member of

50 the General Assembly for the form of such member's or employee's
 51 coverage under such plan or plans. On and after January 1, 1989, the
 52 state shall pay for anyone receiving benefits from any such
 53 state-sponsored retirement system one hundred per cent of the portion
 54 of the premium charged for such member's or employee's individual
 55 coverage and one hundred per cent of any additional cost for the form
 56 of coverage. The balance of any premiums payable by an individual
 57 employee or by a member of the General Assembly for the form of
 58 coverage shall be deducted from the payroll by the State Comptroller.
 59 The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Comptroller to
 60 the insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or
 61 organizations providing the coverage. The amount of the state's
 62 contribution per employee for a health maintenance organization
 63 option shall be equal, in terms of dollars and cents, to the largest
 64 amount of the contribution per employee paid for any other option
 65 [which] that is available to all eligible state employees included in the
 66 health benefits plan, but shall not be required to exceed the amount of
 67 the health maintenance organization premium.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

Statement of Purpose:

To provide continuing health insurance coverage to surviving spouses of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty and to their children upon the remarriage of the surviving spouse.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. STONE, 134th Dist.